

Montana Public Service Commission
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PSC SCHEDULES MISSOULA HEARING ON MPC GAS CASE

The state Public Service Commission invites Missoula area residents to comment on issues involved in the Montana Power Company rate case currently pending before the PSC at a hearing to be held Thursday, September 25, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 435 Ryman, in Missoula.

Issues to be discussed include MPC's natural gas rates and service and the company's plan to restructure its natural gas operations. The PSC will consider the company's restructuring proposal pursuant to a new law passed by the 1997 Legislature that allows Montana natural gas utilities to offer their customers choices of suppliers and to provide access by other suppliers to their transmission, storage or distribution facilities.

Representatives of MPC and of the Montana Consumer Counsel, which represents residential and small business customers in cases before the PSC, will also be on hand at the hearing to explain the issues and present their views of the case.

"Retail natural gas competition is coming," according to Public Service Commissioner Bob Rowe. "It's already here for the biggest customers. Your bill will change. If you want, your service provider may change.

"This meeting will give you information, answer your questions and let you state your opinion. In addition to taking public testimony, I expect a lively discussion from everyone in the room."

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